

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) A prosthetic hearing device comprising:
a sensor for detecting a speech;
a speech recognition processor that performs speech recognition on the detected speech, wherein the speech recognition processor performs speech recognition in view of at least one of a physical state of the user and an operating condition of the prosthetic hearing device;
a speech generator that analyzes results of speech recognition to comprehend a semantic meaning in the detected speech and transforms the detected speech into a speech having a speech form assistive in understanding the semantic meaning in the detected speech; and
an output device that outputs the generated speech to a user[[;]].
~~a memory that has stored a library of images comprising still and motion pictures, symbols, characters, notes, photos, animations, illustrations, voice spectrum patterns and colors, wherein the speech generator selects at least one image associated with the semantic meaning in the detected speech; and~~
~~a display that displays the selected at least one image associated with the semantic meaning in the detected speech.~~

36. (cancelled)

37. (previously presented) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, wherein the speech recognition processor performs at least one of speaker recognition, speaker identification and speaker verification, and the speech generator generates the speech representing results of the recognition, identification and/or verification.

38. (previously presented) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, wherein the speech generator transforms the detected speech in view of at least one of a physical state of

the user, an operating condition of the prosthetic hearing device and a purpose for use of the device by the user.

39. (cancelled)

40. (previously presented) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, wherein the speech generator transforms the detected speech by adding thereto a modifying language.

41. (previously presented) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, wherein the speech generator reproduces a speech previously produced when it determines from the results of the speech recognition that it is necessary to reproduce the previously produced speech.

42. (previously presented) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, further comprising an input device, wherein the speech generator, when receiving a reproduction instruction through the input device from the user, reproduces the speech previously produced.

43. (previously presented) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, wherein the speech data generator controls an output rate of the speech data.

44. (previously presented) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, wherein the output device outputs the speech using sample speech data synthesized by the speech generator.

45. (previously presented) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, further comprising a memory that has stored samples of speech data, wherein the output device outputs the speech data using sample speech data selected by the speech data generator from the memory.

46. (cancelled)

47. (previously presented) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, wherein the speech generator generates the speech that summarizes the detected speech.

48. (cancelled)

49. (cancelled)

50. (cancelled)

51. (previously presented) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, wherein the sensor selectively detects a speech from a specific speech source.

52-112. (cancelled)

113. (currently amended) A prosthetic hearing device comprising:

a sensor for detecting a speech;

a speech recognition processor that performs speech recognition on the detected speech;

a speech generator that analyzes results of speech recognition to comprehend a semantic meaning in the detected speech and transforms the detected speech into a speech having a speech form assistive in understanding the semantic meaning in the detected speech, wherein the speech generator transforms the detected speech in view of at least one of a physical state of the user and an operating condition of the prosthetic hearing device; and

an output device that outputs the generated speech to a user.

~~a memory that has stored a library of images comprising still and motion pictures, symbols, characters, notes, photos, animations, illustrations, voice spectrum patterns~~

~~and colors, wherein the speech generator selects at least one image associated with the semantic meaning in the detected speech; and~~

~~— a display that displays the selected at least one image associated with the semantic meaning in the detected speech.~~

114. (new) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 35, further comprising a display, wherein the speech generator displays on the display an image associated with the semantic meaning in the detected speech.

115. (new) A prosthetic hearing device of claim 114, further comprising a memory that has stored a library of images comprising still and motion pictures, symbols, characters, notes, photos, animations, illustrations, voice spectrum patterns and colors, wherein the speech generator selects and displays at least one image associated with the semantic meaning in the detected speech.